


Pender, Bill (REPS)

From: Richardson, Stephen - Product Integrity [Stephen.Richardson@daff.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 June 2007 11:10 AM
To: Committee, Aff (REPS)
Subject: Honey bee industry inquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Submission No:	62
Date Received:	20/6/07
Secretary:	

Dear Committee secretariat,

Re: ***Inquiry into the future development of the Australian honey bee industry***

While the date has passed for formal submissions, I though I may draw your attention to some early warning surveillance that is being undertaken in regard to exotic bees and exotic bee mites (including varroa mite) which you may not already be aware of and is distinct from the sentinel hive program.

As a project funded under the federal governments securing the future initiative The Office of Chief Plant Protection Officer (DAFF/PIAPH) has over the last two years invested in development of early warning detection capacity in urban areas for emergency plant pests in State and territory jurisdictions. The program has one more year of federal funding at this stage, after that, continued surveillance is unsure at this stage as states would have to carry all costs. At least two jurisdictions at this time (NSW & NT) out of the seven signed up to the program specifically include exotic bees and bee mites as target pests in early detection surveillance activities that they undertake. Other state agencies have also identified these as important pest targets and while surveillance may not specifically target them, there is always scope for detection of pests that are not the key target of a surveillance program. The aim of the early warning detection surveillance is to undertake surveillance and detect pests close to the likely point of origin (ie near ports or other likely areas of infestation in urban centres) sufficiently early, before pests have the chance to spread to rural areas and prove more costly and difficult to eradicate.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the above.

Regards
 Stephen Richardson

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